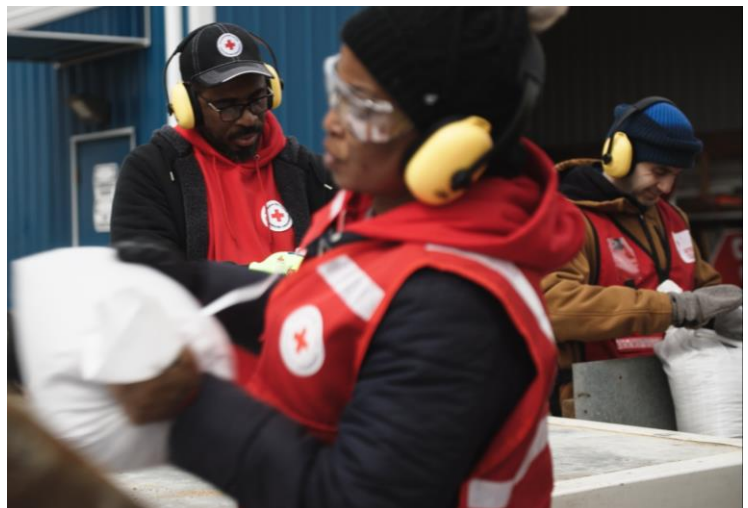


**PROGRESS
UPDATE**

December, 2025



Climate and Environmental Charter for Humanitarian Organizations



1 Flood mitigation operations in Peguis First Nation, MB (Mar. 2026)

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Executive Summary - Our Commitment Progress

In September 2021 the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) became a signatory to the [Climate and Environmental Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#), which includes a set of six commitments to guide humanitarian action in response to the climate and environmental crises. To turn these commitments into reality, signatories are expected to develop targets and design action plans that outline how they plan to meet their targets.

In September 2022 we published targets for each commitment to further guide our planned service offerings and capacity investments. We have since implemented a comprehensive set of initiatives to enhance disaster risk management, environmental sustainability, and community resilience in response to climate and environmental crises.

This report provides a progress update on the targets we made. Broadly, our approach integrates preparedness, recovery, and adaptation efforts with a focus on inclusivity, Indigenous leadership, and collaboration across sectors.

- **Enhancing disaster risk management capacity:** The CRC has expanded preparedness programs for various audiences (individuals, households, organizations and businesses) such as "Be Ready" webinars, Ready Rating for businesses, and Service Continuity Planning workshops for community organizations, alongside volunteer-led door-to-door campaigns in select neighbourhoods to promote emergency readiness.
- **Integrating environmental considerations in programs:** Since 2022, the CRC [Environment Policy](#) has embedded a set of operational sustainability implementation measures and established a monitoring and accountability structure to 'Green' our operations. This includes updated quality frameworks ensuring environmental factors are embedded in all programs and responses, sustainable procurement, and carbon offsetting for essential travel.
- **Expanding prevention and recovery services:** The CRC continues to develop services including community recovery planning, internal recovery frameworks, and strengthened collaboration with relief teams and community partners to reduce climate change impacts.
- **Adopting a holistic approach to climate risks:** The CRC connects climate events with health, migration, and social protection, investing in data and integrated program design to anticipate crises and promote equitable responses. Service lines like Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation, and specific programs like Roots for Resilience exemplify this approach.

- **Maximizing environmental sustainability and reducing emissions:** CRC tracks operational greenhouse gas emissions against reduction targets, publish detailed quarterly progress reports (internally) and provide summary progress updates in our annual reports (externally). We have established an Environmental Advisory Committee to promote sustainability best practices across operations.
- **Empowering local and Indigenous leadership:** Through grants and volunteer leadership roles, the CRC supports community-led resilience efforts. Indigenous initiatives include an Indigenous Community Liaison Team, cultural safety toolkits, and commitments to strengthen Indigenous leadership roles.
- **Strengthening collaboration and partnerships:** The CRC engages with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Climate Centre, government, civil society, and environmental organizations to share data, develop tools, and advocate for climate resilience, hosting events like the Ready 2025 Conference.
- **Advocating for climate action:** The organization works with governments to promote adaptation, mitigation, and emissions reduction policies, and leads targeted awareness campaigns for vulnerable groups informed by risk analysis.
- **Supporting culturally appropriate Indigenous responses:** The CRC's Indigenous Help Desk and Indigenous Relations centre co-design services with Indigenous communities, emphasizing self-determination and community-identified needs in disaster risk management and recovery.

Commitments and Associated Targets

The section below provides more details about our targets, and the work being undertaken to achieve them.

Commitment 1: Step up our response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of climate and environmental crises.

Target 1: Year by year, the Canadian Red Cross will increase its internal capacity for the Disaster Risk Management continuum.

The Canadian Red Cross (CRC) has undertaken numerous initiatives to enhance its internal capacity for disaster risk management (DRM) and recovery to help communities adapt to climate impacts. We have invested in the development of cross-sectoral response frameworks that link climate to health, migration, and social systems and have expanded Canada-wide community-based preparedness initiatives such as:

- “Be Ready” webinars that provide disaster preparedness guidance to individuals and households.
- [Ready Rating](#), launched in 2024, is a free online platform that helps businesses, schools, and organizations assess their preparedness, build emergency plans, and access downloadable guides and resources.
- Service Continuity Planning – a five-hour workshop and workbook helping community service organizations plan and prepare for disruptions
- Prepared Together – a set of preparedness webinars offered ahead of wildfire and flood season.
- (Where volunteer capacity exists) Door to Door campaigns – a volunteer enabled in-person outreach to share preparedness information (i.e., related to floods and extreme heat) to households in a shared geography/ neighborhood.

Target 2: By 2024, all Canadian Red Cross programs and responses will have environmental considerations in them.

In 2022, we established an Environment Policy that includes implementation measures to use, where practical, sustainable materials sourced from sustainable means in international and domestic operations. Suppliers contracted by the Canadian Red Cross are now selected through a procurement process that includes an assessment of their environmental posture, including environmental certifications and internal environmental policies.

Furthermore, we updated our quality framework in 2023 to include policy implementation measures in quality evaluation criteria for both ongoing and newly proposed programs.

Additionally, we are now purchasing carbon credits to offset air travel undertaken on the Canadian government’s Global Affairs Canada projects, in line with the Department’s Directive on applying [Carbon Credits](#).

Target 3: Year by year, Canadian Red Cross will continue to grow its prevention, preparedness, risk reduction and recovery services in order to reduce the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.

We have continued to invest and grow our programs and services, with a major focus on community-based outreach and support. In addition to the outward-facing examples in Target 1 above, our service teams have been investing efforts to further mature our services. Examples include:

- Design of a new service line dedicated to supporting community recovery planning in both pre-disaster preparedness and post-disaster recovery, with a focus on climate-related risks.

- Development and refinement of an internal Recovery Framework that will outline our principles, services, and approaches. The first phase has been completed, with a second phase planned to produce an external version that will provide recovery stakeholders with a clear understanding of Canadian Red Cross in recovery, alongside principles, and services.
- Strengthened internal collaboration with relief teams to ensure continuity of services during climate-driven disruptions and to support relationship building with affected communities.
- Intensified engagement with community representatives and external partners to improve coordination, information sharing, and service delivery in recovery phases, helping to reduce vulnerability to climate impacts.
- Increased investments in program planning and development capacity to further develop tools, program standards, data reporting and learnings to enable effective operational implementation and oversight from program stakeholders and leadership.
- Provision of new guidance documents for business and organizational recovery planning, supported through stakeholder workshops to build community capacity for climate resilience and recovery.

Target 4: Year by year, Canadian Red Cross will increase its capacity to look at climate events holistically, including the intersections with health, migration and social protection, with a focus on supporting resilient communities.

Our recently completed Vision 2030 recognizes that “both in Canada and globally, climate-related crises are becoming more severe and frequent, creating what feels like a never-ending ‘disaster season’.”

In response, Vision 2030 will guide the Canadian Red Cross to sharpen our focus on our core services – with an emphasis on emergency management. The goal is to elevate performance standards to new levels and significantly increase the positive impact of our work by making structural adjustments to deliver a more integrated offering of emergency and health services.

We are expanding our ability to connect the dots: how flooding worsens chronic disease, how extreme heat increases migration pressures, or how storms challenge social safety systems.

We don’t see climate risk in isolation — we see people. And people are vulnerable across multiple dimensions. In collaboration with governments, researchers, civil society, and Indigenous leadership, we aim to bring better evidence to bear, so that responses are anticipatory, equitable, and built from local realities.

Over time, we are investing in better data, stronger analytic tools, and integrated program design — so that we can act before a crisis, not just after it. Examples of our approach include:

- Our *Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation* (DRR-CCA) team explicitly aims to “increase individual, household and community resilience to disaster risks resulting from natural hazards and climate change,” shifting from reactive response to proactive risk reduction. This shows the CRC is already embedding climate thinking into its resilience work. The next step is to deepen the interdisciplinarity (health, migration, social protection).
- Our *Strategic Policy Agenda* states we will “work with partners to address increasing financial, social, and health impacts of climate change and disasters, with a focus on supporting resilient communities. This is a commitment to more holistic framing: climate + social + health.
- Our *Roots for Resilience* program, in partnership with The Resilience Institute, aims to “promote adaptive and risk reduction actions ... by engaging small, rural, and Indigenous communities ... to better understand the risks and challenges they face ... and identify existing resources, knowledge and skills ... to take informed action. This provides a foundation for improving capacity in communities to see and act on climate risks in relation to local realities, which may include health, migration stressors, and social inequities.
- Our *Resilience in Action* campaigns include targeted efforts like “Wildfire Awareness Campaign for Women” (aimed at single mothers, pregnant women, low-income households) and “Flood Preparedness Campaign for Older Adults. Climate risks don’t affect everyone equally, and we are tailoring communication / programming accordingly (a step toward more intersectional approaches).
- We have adapted LEGO *Serious Play*® methods to create a child-centered disaster risk awareness activity reflecting Indigenous community perspectives. This integrates cultural, social, and community dimensions (beyond physical hazard) into climate / disaster education.
- A Canadian *Community Resilience Building* project (supported via international cooperation) with expected outcomes that include improved resilience of selected communities, including the incorporation of climate change adaptation and gender. And in the Caribbean, the Canadian Red Cross supports local Red Cross Societies in applying gender-responsive and ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk management / climate adaptation. These demonstrate our capacity to engage socially sensitive and holistic dimensions in climate adaptation programming across different geographies.

Commitment 2: Maximize the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Target 1: In 2022, the Canadian Red Cross will publish an environment policy.

In 2022 our Environment Policy was endorsed by the Board of Directors and was published both internally to all staff on our Environmental Performance SharePoint site, and externally on our public website.

Target 2: In 2022, the Canadian Red Cross will establish a GHG emissions baseline for core operational processes, and a plan to achieve GHG reduction targets will be launched in 2023.

In 2022 we measured our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, and impactful areas in Scope 3 (travel, paper) and established emissions reduction targets against a 2019 baseline. Since 2023 our operational plans have included specific objectives to mitigate our operational environmental impacts, including reducing our emissions.

We track our progress quarterly against our reduction targets¹ and publish reports that are posted internally for all staff to see and comment on. Our annual reports provide a summary of our progress.

Target 3: By the end of 2023, our programs and services quality evaluation criteria will include environmental sustainability considerations.

Our Environment Policy includes implementation measures to use, where practical, sustainable materials sourced from sustainable means in international and domestic operations. Suppliers contracted by the Canadian Red Cross are now selected through a procurement process that includes assessing their environmental posture, including environmental certifications and internal environmental policies.

Our quality framework was updated in 2023 to include relevant environment policy measures in program evaluation criteria for both ongoing and newly proposed programs. Additionally, we have:

- Enhanced our procurement policies to increasingly factor environmental sustainability in everything we buy.
- Established an Environmental Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from operational areas across the organization, with a mandate to identify improvement opportunities and promote sustainability best practices.

Commitment 3: Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities

¹ Based on a 2019 baseline, our goal is to reduce operational emissions 20% by the end of 2025 and 50% by the end of 2030.

Target 1: By 2025, Canadian Red Cross will integrate a community-led approach into all operational plans, policies and procedures related to the DRM continuum.

This approach is fully reflected in our *Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation* (DRR-CCA) principles and latest strategic plan and realized through programmatic approaches like *Roots for Resilience*.

We also offer a *Community Partnerships Program*, which is a grants program that funds local community organizations (non-profits, charities, etc.) to lead recovery, resilience-building and local recovery activities. This approach gives local actors the ability to define what recovery and resilience look like in their own context, rather than being passive recipients of externally defined programs. For example, during and after the 2024 Alberta wildfires the Red Cross made available grants for community organizations that are directly supporting recovery in fire-affected communities.

More broadly, a large portion of the work of the Red Cross is carried out through local volunteers, who have decision-making roles at branch, regional, and national levels (e.g. in governance councils). Many local volunteers are in leadership roles in emergency response, in “Personal Disaster Assistance Teams,” and in advisory groups.

Through our volunteer system, communities themselves help to shape how services are delivered in their locales, rather than being purely top-down.

Target 2: By 2024, Canadian Red Cross will have an Indigenous Advisory Network to ensure we are enabling community-based leaders and actors to support and guide the organization in DRR and climate change adaption strategies to foster local stewardship and traditional territory care.

While we have not finalized an Indigenous Advisory Network as a single entity, we have undertaken numerous initiatives to achieve the target outcomes.

We have implemented an Indigenous Community Liaison Team in Atlantic Canada, as well as the Diversity Resource Group Indigenous and the Cultural Safety Nenookaasi Ogichidaag (CSNO) team at the national level, which focus on ‘lived experience’ through involving those with an Indigenous background as well as those dedicated to participating in active allyship.

To assist all Red Cross personnel, an Indigenous Peoples’ Toolkit is in development which outlines the cultural safety expectations placed on all those responding in Indigenous communities as well how roles such as the Provincial Disaster Coordination Team Indigenous Peoples Lead and the Field Operations Team Indigenous Peoples Lead fit into a large-scale response.

And importantly, our new Vision 2030 commits to strengthening the role of the Office of Indigenous Relations to support the placement of senior, Indigenous leaders in

operational roles and improve the quality of our offerings to Indigenous communities. As well, we will be engaging more directly with Elders and Indigenous communities to ensure our work is community-led and well adapted to the needs and realities of Indigenous populations and Northern communities.

Commitment 4: Increase our capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions.

Target 1: Year by year, we will strengthen ties and collaboration with the IFRC climate centre, while improving hazard data sharing and access across Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, government, academia, and humanitarian sector partners.

We have strengthened collaboration with the IFRC Climate Centre and improved data sharing protocols with partners. Further, we have developed localized climate risk communication tools and community workshops, such as the Roots for Resilience and Coastal Communities Resilience Program, with the express intent to combine local knowledge with climate risk assessment and to build internal capacity (within the Canadian Red Cross) to work more flexibly in climate adaptation.

We are an active member of the IFRC Green Response Working Group, which provides a forum for Red Cross Societies to collaborate on approaches to improve the environmental outcomes of humanitarian assistance. It seeks to minimize harm caused to the local environment as well as reduce the global impact of the carbon emissions we generate. It supports the adoption of innovative solutions to have a positive impact on sustainability.

Target 2: Canadian Red Cross will share information and engage on climate and environmental risks with communities across Canada in an accessible way.

The Canadian Red Cross runs a Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA) program that is explicitly designed to build resilience to both natural hazards and climate change. The program uses “research and best practices” to inform how hazard risks are reduced in context, taking into account vulnerabilities, local capacities, and resources.

It aims to increase individual, household, organization, and community resilience by integrating climate change risks into planning and decision making, and is supported through virtual learning, toolkits, and capacity building with local partners.

Target 3: By 2025, Canadian Red Cross will have a national strategy and Society-wide resources and reference centre on Indigenous DRR and Humanitarianism to amplify and

promote local Indigenous knowledge, leadership, actors, organizations, evidence-based research, and best practices on climate change adaptation.

We have developed an ***Indigenous Peoples Framework*** that emphasizes collaboration with Indigenous leadership, communities, and organizations; it commits to ensuring that planning, monitoring, and implementation of activities is done in partnership, respecting Indigenous self-determination.

This framework asserts that Indigenous-led and community-driven efforts build resilience and capacity to prevent and respond to crises. It also commits to embedding cultural sensitivity, inclusion, and appropriate representation in hiring, relationships with leadership, and service delivery.

Further, we have created an Indigenous Relations Centre with dedicated staff to provide framework guidance and support to all areas of the organization, ensuring Indigenous considerations are integrated into every service we deliver.

Commitment 5: Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action.

Target 1: Canadian Red Cross will use its technical expertise in partnership with levels of government and relevant authorities, including Indigenous government and authorities, civil society organizations and other partners to strengthen domestic frameworks related to climate including on adaptation, preparedness, recovery and responding to climate crisis.

As documented in other targets, we provide domestic frameworks and guidance to all levels of government and communities, backed up by practical tool kits available both online and through in-person seminars and training sessions.

A practical example of this approach is the Inclusive Resilience project (funded by Public Safety Canada, implemented by Canadian Red Cross) which focused on building awareness & capacity for disaster risk resilience among Indigenous Peoples and other at-risk groups, including older adults, youth and newcomers — linking the organization's technical expertise and partnership with Indigenous and civil society groups.

Another is the "Ready Rating" online preparedness service, which extends the organization's expertise (emergency preparedness) into organizational frameworks (businesses, schools, NGOs) to improve resilience in the face of climate-related disasters.

Target 2: Canadian Red Cross will continue to collaborate with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement components and external partners to exchange best practices,

engage in advocacy, and maximize funding opportunities to strengthen climate and environmental action.

As a member of the IFRC-led Green Response Working Group, the Canadian Red Cross regularly engages with Movement partners on efforts that include supporting initiatives to develop tools and best practices for the benefit of all, and providing advice and lessons-learned to Societies that are in the early stages of developing their own environmental performance programs.

Target 3: Canadian Red Cross will grow partnerships with environmental organizations.

We continue to expand our position as a focal point and enabler of environmental organization partnerships. A major highlight over the past year was hosting the Ready 2025 Conference, which brought together over 130 representatives from more than 40 emergency management partners, major stakeholders, and all levels of government in Canada. Discussions focused on strengthening preparedness in response to rising climate-driven disasters and emergencies.

We also coordinated and co-facilitated policy workshops on disaster resilience and Indigenous resilience for Climate Proof Canada. Workshop outcomes will help guide the implementation of Canada's National Adaptation Strategy. Our experts also briefed parliamentarians on additional context and considerations on this topic.

Commitment 6: Use our influence to mobilize urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection.

Target 1: In 2022, Canadian Red Cross will engage with levels of government to advocate for stronger adaptation, mitigation and emissions reduction policies and programs that address the whole risk environment.

Our Strategic Policy Agenda pledges to advocate for climate change adaptation, risk reduction, mitigation, and emissions reduction policies and programs — collaborating with government and partners to address “the whole risk environment” and identify gaps in evidence and capacity. This role requires the Canadian Red Cross to engage with scientific and policy research, gather evidence of climate-driven humanitarian effects, and feed those into public decision making.

The Canadian Red Cross has advocated with the government for adaptation and mitigation policies, hosted the Ready 2025 Conference, and participated in the National Adaptation Summit as a member of Climate Proof Canada. It has also launched integrated recovery programs focusing on vulnerable communities and coordinated policy workshops on disaster resilience and Indigenous resilience.

Target 2: By 2023, the Canadian Red Cross will establish collaboration with partners to address increasing financial, social, and health impacts of climate change and disasters, with a focus on supporting resilient communities.

Under our Inclusive Resilience portfolio, the Canadian Red Cross runs national campaigns and activities to raise risk awareness and encourage action among different population groups (e.g. wildfire awareness campaign directed to women; flood preparedness for older adults).

These campaigns are informed by risk analysis: identifying which hazards disproportionately affect which groups and designing messaging accordingly. By monitoring the outcomes of those campaigns, these groups can learn and refine evidence around communication effectiveness, vulnerability, and adaptation.

More recently, we participated in the 2025 Health Preparedness in the Arctic conference hosted by the Norwegian Red Cross and the Northern Norway Regional Health authority. Canadian Red Cross members presented on work related to preparing for the next pandemic, lessons from our epidemic control and Indigenous community engagement in northern Canada, and innovation and enhancing local emergency health resilience, adapting ERU/EMT expertise to develop climate tools and local mobile hospital capacity.

Target 3: By 2023, Canadian Red Cross will consult on culturally appropriate pathways to address preparedness, response and recovery, and adopt and advocate for distinct Indigenous considerations for climate change and environmental crises.

Recognizing that Indigenous communities have distinct needs and leadership structures, the Canadian Red Cross has created a ***Help Desk for Indigenous Leadership*** to support Indigenous communities, territories, and nations. We use this mechanism to coordinate with Indigenous leadership and offer resources and advice tailored to what communities themselves requested.

- It is a predominantly Indigenous team that works with Indigenous leadership and communities to co-design services, training, support for grant applications, workshops, etc.
- It provides support in areas such as disaster risk management, emergency planning, community resilience, and technical guidance—but always in a way that centers community-identified needs and strengths.
- It also offers “wise practice recommendations based on identified needs” (i.e. input comes from the communities themselves) rather than imposing pre-set solutions.